Docket No. 002854-39
Serial No. 10/080,928

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PATENT & TRADEMARK

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)

Marion D. Skeen et al.) Group Art Unit: unassigned

Serial No. 10/080,928) Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: February 25, 2002)

For: Method and Apparatus for Sharing) Date: April 3, 2002
Information Between Applications)
Using Common Objects)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commission of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete paragraphs [0035] and [0036] and replace with the following paragraphs. Please note that the amended specification is presented below in its amended form. The specification is further presented as an attachment to the amendment where the changes are shown using the conventional method of bracketing and underlining.

[0035] Fig. 5 illustrates a methodology for creating common object definitions of the preferred embodiment. In step 502, key applications to be used in system 10 are identified. The key applications can be applications currently being integrated by system 10 and/or applications that may be integrated by system 10 in the future. However, as will be seen below. Subsequent additions of applications can be accounted for later due to the extensibility of the common object definitions and thus it

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may be desirable to exclude potential applications to reduce overhead. In step 504, the intersection, i.e. the overlap, of data elements of the data structures of any two of the key applications is identified. In step 506, the intersection is adjusted to any relevant standard. For example, if the common object definition has a corresponding common object in a standard, such as the standard OAG common object, selected data elements in the standard common object can be included in the canonical object to increase inter-operability with standards based systems. Steps 502, 504, and 506 yield canonical object 100 described above.

[0036]   In step 508, a vertical extension can be added to the common object definition. For example, industry specific data elements can be added as the vertical extension. In step 510 an application specific extension can be added to the common object definition. For example, application specific data elements can be added as an application extension to retain functionality of various applications. In step 512, when a new application is to be added to system 10, the procedure can return to step 504 for consideration of data elements in the data structure of the new application. The use of extensions permits application specific and industry specific data to be included in a common object without requiring all applications to parse all of the data elements. For example application 40 can ignore data elements in an extension that is specific to application 50. This reduces overhead.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 15, 21, and 23 as follows and add new claims 24 and 25 Please note that the amended claim(s) are presented below in their amended form. The claims are further presented as an attachment to the amendment where the changes are shown using the conventional method of bracketing and underlining.

1. A computer architecture for sharing information between plural applications having disparate data structures, said architecture comprising:

plural applications, at least one of said applications having a data structure that is different from another of said applications;

an application integration platform including logic for exchanging information between said plural applications; and

at least one common object definition specifying common objects to be used for exchanging data between said applications and including a canonical object defining elements of a standard object that are common between data structures of at least any two of said plural applications, said common object further including at least one extension defining application specific, industry specific, or user specific elements, said canonical object being exposed to all of the applications through said application integration platform, said extension being exposed only to selected ones of the plural applications.

15. A method of defining a common data object for sharing information between plural applications having disparate data structures, said method comprising:

identifying one or more primary applications each having a data structure;

determining common data elements between at least any two of the data structures;

selecting elements of a canonical object that correspond to the common elements;

adjusting the canonical object based on a common object standard; and

adding at least one application specific, industry specific, or user specific extension to the data elements of the canonical object.

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21.   A definition as recited in claim 20, wherein each of said canonical object and said extensions are represented by a separate node.

22.   A definition as recited in claim 20, wherein each of said canonical object and said extensions are represented by a distinct DTD.

23.   A definition as recited in claim 20, wherein said common object definition references another common object definition.

Please add new claims 24-25 as follows.

-- 24.   A corporate architecture as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one extension comprise an industry specific extension having data elements adapted to a specific industry.

25.   A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said adding step comprises adding data elements adapted to a specific industry. --
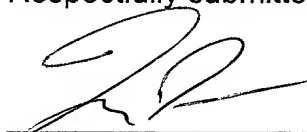
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REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending.

The specification has been amended to eliminate informalities. The claims have been amended and new claims have been added to recite the invention more completely. No new matter has been added.

Examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc S. Kaufman
Registration No. 35,212

MSK:dkt

NIXON PEABODY LLP
8180 Greensboro Drive
Suite 800
McLean, Virginia 22102
Telephone: (703) 770-9110

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Marked-up version of the specification and claims

Fig. 5 illustrates a methodology for creating common object definitions of the preferred embodiment. In step 502, key applications to be used in system 10 are identified. The key applications can be applications currently being integrated by system 10 and/or applications that may be integrated by system 10 in the future. However, as will be seen below. Subsequent additions of applications can be accounted for later due to the extensibility of the common object definitions and thus it may be desirable to exclude potential applications to reduce overhead. In step 504, the intersection, i.e. the overlap, of data elements of the data structures of any two of the key applications is identified. In step 506, the intersection is adjusted to any relevant standard. For example, if the common object definition has a corresponding common object in a standard, such as the standard OAG common object, selected data elements in the standard common object can be included in the canonical object to increase inter-operability with standards based systems. Steps 502, 504, and 506 yield canonical object 100 described above.

[0036]   In step 508, a vertical extension can be added to the [comon] common object definition. For example, industry specific data elements can be added as the vertical extension. In step 510 an application specific extension can be added to the [comon] common object definition. For example, application specific data elements can be added as [the vertical] an application extension to retain functionality of various applications. In step 512, when a new application is to be added to system 10, the procedure can return to step 504 for consideration of data elements in the data structure of the new application. The use of extensions permits application specific and industry specific data to be included in a common object without requiring all applications to parse all of the data elements. For example application 40 can ignore data elements in an extension that is specific to application [40] 50. This reduces overhead.

1.   A computer architecture for sharing information between plural applications having disparate data structures, said architecture comprising:

plural applications, at least one of said applications having a data structure that is different from another of said applications;

an application integration platform including logic for exchanging information between said plural applications; and

at least one common object definition specifying common objects to be used for exchanging data between said applications and including a canonical object defining elements of a standard object that are common between data structures of <u>at least any two of</u> said plural applications, said [comon] <u>common</u> object further including at least one extension defining application specific<u>, industry specific,</u> or user specific elements, said canonical object being exposed to all of the applications through said application integration platform, said extension being exposed only to selected ones of the plural applications.

15.   A method of defining a common data object for sharing information between plural applications having disparate data structures, said method comprising:

identifying one or more primary applications each having a data structure;

determining common data elements between <u>at least any two of</u> the data structures;

selecting elements of a canonical object that correspond to the common elements;

adjusting the canonical object based on a common object standard; and

adding at least one application specific<u>, industry specific,</u> or user specific extension to the data elements of the canonical object.

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21.   A [computer architecture] <u>definition</u> as recited in claim 20, wherein each of said canonical object and said extensions are represented by a separate node.

22.   A [computer architecture] <u>definition</u> as recited in claim 20, wherein each of said canonical object and said extensions are represented by a distinct DTD.

23.   A [computer architecture] <u>definition</u> as recited in claim 20, wherein said common object definition references another common object definition.